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Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80M01133A000500100003-0

IC 75-4507  
26 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/DCI/IC  
THROUGH: A/C/PRD  
SUBJECT: DIA's Response to Intelligence Support in Crisis Situations

1. The DIA response proposes "the modernized NMCC/NMIC complex as the solution to a crisis management facility for the national decision-maker." The whole orientation is toward SECDEF as the manager of any warning/crisis situation. This ignores the fact that the DCI is the primary intelligence adviser to the President--not the SECDEF. This is a fundamental issue that must be faced in the paper called for by the President.

2. There is no doubt that during certain phases of a crisis the SECDEF might play the primary executive role in carrying out US responses. However, during other phases the primary agent might be the Secretary of State or even the President himself.

3. The paper fails to recognize that the WSAG is already an agreed upon mechanism--not one that is to be created in the future.

4. Timeliness and coordination are not mutually exclusive. I recall in the case of the EC121 shoot down the lack of coordination between State and the SECDEF almost lead to a disaster. Orders were sent by the JCS for the local commander to act against any foreign ship entering the area of the shoot down while at the same time the State Department was arranging with the Russians to have their ships search for wreckage and survivors.

5. If intelligence support is to come primarily from the military elements we will get military solutions.

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